dpi notes

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

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EXHIBITS: HUMAN RIGHTS

On Human Rights Day, 10 December, in the Headquarters Public Lobby, Secretary-General Perez de Cuellar formally opened to the public a new exhibition: **Auschwitz, Crimes Against Humanity**. Using more than 150 photographs, facsimiles of documents, art work and text, the exhibition depicts the history of the Nazi concentration and death camps where over one million Jews, Poles, Soviet POWs and other targeted groups were persecuted, tortured and murdered.

Created by the Auschwitz State Museum in Poland and the International Auschwitz Committee, the exhibition is sponsored by the Polish Ministry of Culture and Art, the US Holocaust Memorial Museum and the UN Centre for Human Rights. In connection with its exhibits programme, DPI physically serviced the process of staging the exhibition at Headquarters and set up a press conference for Miles Lerman, Chairman of the US Holocaust Memorial Council, Ambassador Robert Mroziewicz of Poland, Maurice Goldstein, President of the International Auschwitz Committee, Teresa Swiebocka, Senior Curator of the Auschwitz State Museum, Sara Bloomfield of the US Holocaust Memorial Council, and three survivors of Aschwitz, Dr. Hadassah Rosensaft, Chris Lerman and Jan Komski.

DPI expects over 100,000 persons to visit the exhinition during the three months it is on view at Headquarters. The exhibition will then tour 14 US cities.

UNITED NATIONS

EXHIBITS: PALESTINE

On 27 November, DPI in cooperation with the Permanent Observer Mission of Palestine to the United Nations unveiled the Annual Week of Solidarity with the Palestinian People Exhibit in the Public Lobby. The exhibit this year consisted of 21 paintings of Jerusalem by the Palestinian artist Al-Nashashibi.

Last month, as prospects and timing for the Madrid conference on Middle East peace became more certain, DPI re-scheduled stops planned for its two-week news mission for European journalists to coincide with political developments.

As a result, within hours and days of events in Madrid, journalists on the mission were able to meet Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the PLO; King Hussein of Jordan; Foreign Minister Amre Moussa of Egypt; Nasser Kaddour, Syrian Minister of State, and key members of the Palestine negotiating team, including Hanan Ashrawi.

Journalists on the mission filed numerous front page articles and analyses to their papers which included *The Guardian* (UK), *Le Monde* (France) and *Il Corriere della Sera* (Italy). DPI plans to publish a compendeum of the stories in the spring.

EXHIBITS: REFUGEES

The DPI/UNHCR exhibit, "Four Decades of International Protection and Care for Refugees" produced last month by DPI in collaboration with UNHCR, mounted for the first time for public viewing hundreds of remarkable and emotion-charged photos of refugees from the archives of UNHCR.

The exhibit also made its point with a computer-animated "The Right to Seek Asylum." Programmed on a MacIntosh 2CX with MacroMind Director 3.0 software, the video was transferred from a 45 meg portable hard disk to betacam tape, to which "public domain" music track was added. It was created by DPI Communications Services Section exhibits writer/producer

Doreen Beck, with the cooperation of Santiago Romero-Perez of UNHCR, Maxim Zhukov of the Department of Conference Services, James Ludlam and Karin Litzmann of UNTV, Shraddha Howard of the UN Photo Lab, UN cartographers, and some 60 UN and non-UN photographers.

CAMBODIA

DPI expects to play an active role in the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), set up by the October 1991 Paris accords.

The major emphases of DPI activity are envisioned in connection with UNTAC's voter education programme designed to ensure free and fair elections, UNTAC's human rights education programme, and the unprecedented role UNTAC will have in supervising agencies, bodies and offices in the field of information.

With roads, rail and water transportation almost completely destroyed, radio and television severely limited in their range, and a problem of widespread illiteracy, the means DPI choses to communicate the UN's message will need to be innovative. Plans for these efforts will not be finalized until after the UN survey mission, which will include DPI staff, visits Cambodia in December, but the Department anticipates making wide use of graphic materials including posters and leaflets, in addition to audio and video cassettes.

In November, DPI issued an information note/fact sheet on UNAMIC (UN Advance Mission in Cambodia). The paper provides a brief historical background of developments leading up to the establishment of the Mission and describes UNAMIC's mandate and composition.

Also in November, at DPI's regular Thursday briefing for NGOS, Hedi Annabi, Special Assistant to the Special Representative of the SG for Humanitarian Affairs in Southeast Asia, discussed "A Question of Cambodia—An Update."

UNTV

UNTV's 30 minute video *"Breaking Barriers"*, was awarded a Certificate of Merit last month at the 27th Chicago International Film Festival. *Breaking Barriers* demonstrates how many of the 500 million disabled persons worldwide overcome the obstacles that stand in their way.

Recently UNTV released two new documentaries on videocassette, *Chernobyl Recovery—A Blueprint for International Co-operation* (15 minutes) and *Up Against Nature* (27 minutes). The first uses unique footage taken at the time of the explosion to show what happened at Chernobyl. It then focuses on international cooperation in monitoring radiation levels, ensuring safe drinking water for 35 million people and keeping food free from contamination. The second documents the effect of underwater earthquakes called tusunamis, and shows how multinational cooperation can miitigate their effects. Made for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, *Up Against Nature* was filmed on location in Colombia, Bangladesh and Japan.

AFRICA RECOVERY

In December, the Africa Recovery Unit plans to publish a collection of press clippings on the Secretary-General's Report on the Critical Economic Situation in Africa, issued in late August, and on the 3-13 September Ad Hoc Committee on the Whole Review of the UN Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development (UNPAAERD).

Despite the many dramatic international events during this period, coverage of the report and meeting has been extensive: to date, close to 200 articles have appeared throughout the world. The Africa Recovery Unit reports virtually all the major dailies in Europe, North America and Japan carried articles on the Secretary-General's Report.

READEX
FICHE

Many, such as the *New York Times* and *Le Monde*, had long articles. Others, such as the *Christian Science Monitor*, and *The Independent* in London gave frontpage or editorial coverage to issues raised by the UN. In addition, the Report was carried on prime-time TV and radio news programmes in Europe and North America, as well as in many African countries, where efforts of the UN Information Centres resulted in wide newspaper coverage.

CRIME

At the UN Crime Prevention Programme in Paris in November, DPI provided press, radio and TV coverage in English and French. Pierre Mehu, Director of UNIS Geneva, acted as Spokesman.

Earlier this fall, the Department published *The United Nations and Crime Prevention*, a 144-page reference booklet offering a comprehensive overview of the work of the UN system in the field of crime prevention, criminal justice and the treatment of offenders.

AIDS

The World Health Organization in cooperation with DPI marked World Aids Day on 5 December at Headquarters with a panel discussion on the economic impact of AIDS. Participants in the panel were: USG Rafeeuddin Ahmed, UN Coordinator for AIDS Matters, Michael Merson, Director of WHO's Global Programme on AIDS, Mead Over of the World Bank and Arturo Diaz Betancourt, President of the Confederación Mexicana Contra el SIDA. The audience included staff, delegations and NGOs.

VISITORS

DPI's Public Services Section reports that Japan Airlines (JAL) plans to update its guide book for U.S. East Coast passengers to recommend that stops in New York include a UN guided tour. JAL will also distribute DPI's *Come to the UN* brochures from its Fifth Avenue offices.

UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL

At a meeting of the World Federation of United Nations Associations on 18 November, where she represented the Secretary General, USG Sévigny told Association members that in order to disseminate the UN information effectively in a time of financial constraints, DPI was looking for support to outside groups, such as WFUNA, as well as for financial assistance from the private sector, public institutions, NGOs and Member States. ■

LOOKING AHEAD

PANEL ON WOMEN'S RIGHTS (30 January 1992): On 30 January, US Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'-Connor will act as keynote speaker at a DPI-organized panel on women's rights, titled "Engendering Equality." Other members of the panel will include international legal experts and women's rights activists. The event, scheduled to coincide with the meeting at UN Headquarters of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) is planned as part of DPI's series of NGO briefings. ■

INFORMATION CENTRES MARK UN DAY

UN Information Centres traditionally make their commemoration of UN Day on 24 October one of their major efforts of the year. This year Centres from Washington to Athens, from Khartoum to Manila, reported a variety of programmes and events celebrating the day.

In Washington, D.C., on UN Day, a UN flag flew on Pennsylvania Avenue in front of the White House. In Montgomery County when the Director of **UNIC Washington** spoke at the first Montgomery County UN Day commemoration, the UN flag was displayed.

In Athens, UN Day began with a solemn military march and the raising of the UN and Greek flags on the Acropolis Hill. UN and Greek flags were also flown in front of the Greek House of Parliament and in Constitution Square when, in another ceremony, the Greek Under-Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Virginia Tsouderou, laid a wreath at the tomb of country's unknown soldier.

In the Hague, headquarters of the International Court of Justice, 15 UN flags flew in the centre of the city on UN Day. In **Dar-Es-Salaam, Khartoum, Lagos** and **Manila,** flag-raising ceremonies were attended by government officials and UNIC staff.

SPECIAL EVENTS

In many countries, UNICS and host governments staged special events.

In Vienna the Hiroshima Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Uoshikazu Tanaka with soloist Gerhard Hetzel performed a "Concert for Peace." The orchestra's visit to Vienna was made possible through the sponsorship of the city of Hiroshima. Proceeds went to the Chernobyl Trust Fund in Vienna.

The following day **in Prague,** the Hiroshima symphony played at Prague Castle, under the sponsorship of the Austria-Hiroshima Association, the Czech Ministry of Culture and the UNIC. Proceeds went go to the Fund for Czech Victims of the Chernobyl Accident.

In Geneva, the choir of the United World College of the Adriatic performed at UNIS. In **Togo, UNIC Lome** in cooperation with the UNESCO Club Zango staged *La Révolte des Dieux*, a play written by Sawadogo Rhamana of Burkina Faso. **UNIC Moscow** organized a country and folk musicconcert.

The UNDP Office in Havana, with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Culture and the Cuban UNA, organized a UN Day performance by ballerina Alicia Alonso and the National Ballet Theatre.

UNIC Manila, with the support of UNESCO, UNHCR and UNFPA, arranged to set up six travelling UN exibits in shopping malls and supermarkets where they were viewed by thousands of shoppers.

UNIC Lagos organized a public forum on *The UN and International Cooperation in Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice*, featuring Professor A.A. Adeyemi, Head of the Department of Public Law, University of Lagos, and Chief Alex Akinyele, Nigerian Minister of Information.

In **Paraguay**, in an unusual gesture of recognition of UN Day, the National Postal Administration stamped all incoming and outgoing mail with a commemorative UN postmark.

UN DAY MEDIA PLACEMENT

Many UNICS report widespread media attention to UN Day, with many articles based on information materials provided by UNICs.

UNIC New Delhi reports *The Times of India* published a three-page supplement on UN

activities in all six of its regional editions. Beirut's *As-Safri* carried a two-page spread on UN Day.

The Director of **UNIC Vienna** held a press conference on 23 October. Staff of **UNIS Geneva** gave three press interviews and appeared on several radio programmes. UNIS Centre Directors in **Athens, Sydney, Accra, Manila, Bangkok, Asunción** and **Moscow** were all interviewed on radio about UN Day.

Many Philippine newspapers carried editorials on the UN in response to a letter from the UNIC Manila director suggesting that they do so. **UNIC Rabat** produced and distributed to government officials and the media the Secretary-General's report on the Organization, in booklet form. Directors of **UNIC Prague** and **UNIC Khartoum** organized media campaigns, mailing UN Day press kits to media organizations—an initiative which generated extensive newspaper coverage.

Centres also report media coverage of UN Day in: Australia's *Canberra Times*, Bangladesh's *Bangladesh Observer, The Bangladesh Times, The Morning Sun, New Nation* and the *Daily Ittefaq*; Pakistan's's *Dawn, The News, The Pakistan Times, Frontier Post, The Muslim* and *The Nation*; Paraguay's *ABC Color, El Diario-Noticias, Partria, Ultima Hora*; Thailand's *The Bangkok Post, The Nation*; and Turkey's *Turkish Daily News, Günes, Dünya* and *Cumhuriyet*.

UN DAY MESSAGES

UN Day this year inspired many officials of national governments to issue official statements. In **Greece**, President Karamanlis sent a message to the Secretary-General calling for continued efforts to find a just solution to the Cyprus problem. In **Jordan**, Prince Hassan declared, "for the UN to remain viable, the UN must continue to reassess its role as the institutional global focal-point." In **Peru**, the Congress as a whole addressed a tribute to the UN. In the **United States**, President Bush issued a Presidential Proclamation inviting Americans to observe UN Day, and noting the UN's "dramatic role in repelling aggression and vindicating the right of all states to live in peace." In **Pakistan**, Prime Minister N. Sharif reaffirmed his country's commitment to the Charter principles.

In **Bangladesh** and in **Jakarta**, the UNIC Directors read the Secretary-General's UN Day message on national television. In **Pakistan**, the Director read it before 1,500 students of Government College for Women Satellite Town, Rawalpindi. In **Mexico**, TV newscasters used the message in broadcasts on channels Televisa, Imvisino, Channel II, Multivision and TV-UNAM. In **Bangkok, Lima, Lome, Prague** and **Sydney**, UNIC Directors and UNDP Resident Representatives read the message at public observances. Most Centres issued the message as a press release in local languages.

CENTRE APPOINTMENTS

Carlos dos Santos, a national of Cape Verde, has been appointed director of **UNIC Lisbon**. He took up his duties on 18 November.

Bernal Vargas-Saborio, a national of Costa Rica and former director of **UNIC Buenos Aires** and **UNIC Santa Fe de Bogotá**, has been appointed director of **UNIC Madrid**. He reported to his new postion on 13 November.

TRAINING

In November, UNIC Information Assistants — locally recruited staff — were brought from Bogotá, Brusseles, Buenos Aires, Bujumbura, Jakarta, Lusaka, Manama, Prague, Rio de Janiero and Tripoli to New York to familiarize them with productions and distribution sources at Headquarters.

WHAT'S NEW AND AVAILABLE

Unless otherwise noted, all DPI information products are available through the DPI Dissemination Division, Room S-0260D, United Nations, NY 10017. Telephone: 212-963-1258.

BOOKLETS AND BROCHURES

KUWAIT: Report to the Secretary-General on the Scope and Nature of Damage Inflicted on the Kuwaiti Infrastructure during the Iraqi Occupation. Covers damage inflicted during the period 2 August 1990 to 27 Feburary 1991. 87 pages. Arabic, English and French. DPI/1157

Progress Made in the Implementation of the Declaration on Apartheid and Its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa. Second Report of the Secretary-General. 55 pages. English, French and Spanish. DPI/1167.

Final Report: Seminar on Promoting an Independent and Pluralistic Africa Press. Proceedings of a seminar on the African press, organized by DPI and Unesco 29 April-3 May 1991. 60 pages. English and French. WIN/91/6.

Declaration of Windhoek on Promoting an Independent and Pluralistic African Press. Text of the statement adopted at a seminar organized by DPI and UNESCO. Six pages. English and French. DPI/1142.

MINURSO. UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara. Timetable. Brochure. Arabic, French and Spanish. DPI/1140.

Earth Summit. A brochure on the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development. Earth Summit '92. Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Spanish, Portuguese and Russian. DPI/1118.

The Singapore Symposium: The Changing Role of the United Nations in Conflict Resolution and Peace-Keeping (13-15-March 1991). Views of 63 experts from 16 countries at a seminar co-sponsored by The Institute of Policy Studies of Singapore and DPI. 85 pages. English. DPI/1141.

Environment and Development. Four-sided, tabloid-size leaflet for students on environment and development. English, French, Spanish, Portuguese. DPI/1123.

REFERENCE WORKS

The United Nations and Crime Prevention. An overview of the work of the UN in crime prevention, criminal justice and the treatment of offenders. 144 pages. English. DPI/1143.

Notes for Speakers. In anticipation of Earth Summit '92. The latest edition of DPI's series of background notes for speakers focuses on environment and development. 73 pages. English. DPI/1183.

VIDEOS

To obtain DPI videos, contact: Audio-Visual promotion and Distribution Officer, Room S-805A, DPI, United Nations, NY 10017. Fax: (212) 963-4642

Chernobyl Recovery: A Blueprint for International Cooperation. International cooperation in monitoring radiation levels, ensuring safe drinking water and keeping food contamination-free in the wake of a nuclear disaster. Videocassette (NTSC/PAL.SECAM: 3/4" or 1/1"). 15 minutes. English.

High Hopes. Efforts during the UN Decade Against Drug Abuse to switch farmers away from growing cocoa, stop drug smuggling in Europe and find treatment for addicts in the US. Videocassette (NTSC/PAL/SECAM: 3/4" ot 1/2"). 27 minutes. English.

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